

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/055,410

Examiner

LUU MATTHEW

Applicant(s)

HASHIMOTO, MASAO

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE filed January 31, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-48.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

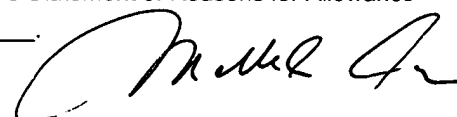
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 1/31/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



MATTHEW LUU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art made of record teaches or suggests a method of image processing comprising the steps of:

- selecting pages of image to identify selected pages;
- combining the selected pages of the image into a single overlapping image;
- displaying the single overlapping image;
- selecting a portion of the single overlapping image to specify a selected portion while the single overlapping image is being displayed;
- selecting a process to be performed on the selected portion;
- simultaneously image processing the selected portion of each of the pages of the image based upon the selected process while the single the single overlapping image is being displayed to generate image processed pages of the image; and
- outputting separately each of the image processed pages of the image.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

-The closest prior art, Horiuchi (6,470,100) discloses (Figs. 2 and 5) an image composition processing apparatus that generates a composed image, which is a superposition of a plurality of image layers and displays it within a window of the screen. A GUI image generating part (32) displays a window for each image layer as shown in

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Figs. 5(A) and (B), displays the area of each image layer to be cut out as an area constituting a composed image in a reduced size, and further displays an image indicating a process effected to each image layer in the periphery of the window. However, Horiuchi fails to disclose the steps of "selecting a portion of the single overlapping image to specify a selected portion while the single overlapping image is being displayed, and simultaneously image processing the selected portion of each of the pages of the image based upon the selected process while the single the single overlapping image is being displayed to generate image processed pages of the image; and outputting separately each of the image processed pages of the image."

-Brunner et al (US 2002/0093516) discloses (Figs. 1-3) an image processing apparatus that combines a plurality of image layers (103) into a single composed image (204). Each window is represented as one or more layers, as shown in Fig. 2. Color and alpha values associated with a window are composited for the overlapping tiles. However, Horiuchi fails to disclose the steps of "selecting a portion of the single overlapping image to specify a selected portion while the single overlapping image is being displayed, and simultaneously image processing the selected portion of each of the pages of the image based upon the selected process while the single the single overlapping image is being displayed to generate image processed pages of the image; and outputting separately each of the image processed pages of the image."

-Higurashi (6,393,162) discloses an image synthesizing apparatus that synthesizes a plurality of images obtained by photographing one subject (one composition) to have overlap portions so as to form one image and capable of appropriately calculating angles of view from the overlap portions of adjacent image. However, Horiuchi fails to disclose the steps of "selecting a portion of the single overlapping image to specify a selected portion while the single overlapping image is being displayed, and simultaneously image processing the selected portion of each of the pages of the image based upon the selected process while the single the single overlapping image is being displayed to generate image processed pages of the image; and outputting separately each of the image processed pages of the image."

-Wellner (5,511,148) discloses (Fig. 6) a system for generating new documents from originals containing text and/or images. Figs. 6(a) to (f) show successive scenes of the desk surface in a copying operation.

-Halliday et al (5,880,740) discloses (Figs. 1-6) a system for manipulating graphical composite image composed of elements selected by user from sequentially displayed members of stored image sets.

-Burt et al (5,999,662) disclose a system for automatically generating a mosaic from a plurality of input images. The system sequentially executed an image alignment

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process, an editing process, and a combining process such that, from a sequence of images, the system automatically produces a seamless mosaic for various applications.

-Blank (5,687,306) discloses (Fig. 4) a system and method for editing digital images in three dimensions includes a computer for storing a digital image of an object and a background.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUU MATTHEW whose telephone number is (571) 272-7663. The examiner can normally be reached on Flexible Schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BELLA MATTHEW can be reached on (571) 272-7663. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

M. Luu

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Luu', with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

MATTHEW LUU
PRIMARY EXAMINER